

# CURRENT

## EXTENSION INFORMATION

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### ADMINISTRATION

C. B. SMITH

#### Activities or conditions noted:

(1) R. V. Gunn of the Michigan Extension Service reports that the county agent force in that State, not only has not decreased but that one new county agent has been gained.

(2) The county prosecutor of Grant County, N. D., holds that according to State laws the Director of Extension can not dismiss an unsatisfactory county agent without the mutual consent of the Board of County Commissioners and is suing the director for the State's share of the agent's monthly salary.

(3) There will be a meeting of the Land-Grant College 4-H Club Committee in Chicago, March 21 and 22.

(4) It is claimed by Dr. T. B. Manny of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics that the changed diet in Arkansas due to better gardens can be detected in the faces of the people.

Address all communications to Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

## EASTERN STATES

FLORENCE L. HALL

### Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Contacts made with 50 mothers of young children in each county in Delaware during the survey for the White House Conference on Child Health have been followed up by personal visits to some and a series of four circular letters to all. Out of these contacts has come the prospect of five groups of mothers for regular meetings in 1932.

(2) Delaware agents are urging the planting of fall gardens as well as spring gardens as a State-wide project. Reports from 45 women in Sussex County gave the average cost of the garden as \$28.12. The average value was estimated at \$95.72, leaving an average profit of \$67.60.

In New Castle County a tour was held recently to visit the four winter pantry demonstrators. These women had made a family food budget and had planted their gardens to supply immediate and winter needs. The four women canned a total of 1700 containers of fruits and vegetables for home use. These women valued their four pantries at approximately \$404. In addition, one of these demonstrators had canned 1000 quarts of tomatoes, corn and soup mixture for sale.

(3) A new development in the informational program for home demonstration work in Rhode Island is the radio broadcast, which has been given three times a week since September 1, 1931. During that time, 36 talks were given. All but nine of these were written by the State leader of home demonstration work. As a result of these broadcasts, 625 requests have come in for bulletins and other material.

(4) As a result of requests for low cost menus, a study was made in Rhode Island supplementing the Market Basket Order, which is issued weekly by the Department of Agriculture, and a week's market order was worked out at local prices. Flour at the time of the study was selling in a chain store for 41¢ for 24# sack. Figuring  $\frac{1}{2}$  bag of flour for a week's supply of bread with yeast, sugar, shortening, etc., a week's supply of bread would cost approximately 32¢. If bought from the store at 10¢ a loaf, a week's supply would cost approximately \$1.00. Even though flour were more expensive than it is now, it would still be cheaper to bake bread at home provided the fuel was being used anyway as heat according to this Rhode Island study.

H. W. HOCHBAUM

### Activities or conditions noted:

(1) The total paid farm bureau membership in New York is only 1800 less than last year on the same date, December 1. This indicates that the farmers are still giving good support to extension work. However, L. R. Simons, State county agent leader, believes that farm bureau membership does

not mean as much, perhaps, to the county boards of supervisors as the extension people here thought it did. Therefore, greater effort will be made to bring news of extension work and results to the notice of supervisors.

(2) The acting director in Vermont, J. E. Carrigan, thinks more attention should be given to the coordination of the work of extension specialists, and, also, to a planned use of a variety of extension means and agencies. At the annual conference held in December committees of agents, supervisors and specialists were set at work to study these problems and to report to the general conference. There were separate committees on farm and home visits; meetings; press articles; circular letters; bulletins; annual meetings; office organization; and agent and specialist relationships.

(3) The low price of milk in the eastern States (8 cents retail in Boston, Dec. 7) is perhaps the first real hard jolt the current depression has driven home to the farmers. Low prices for apples and potatoes have shaken some, of course, but this low milk price seems to be the first general seismographic upheaval. What is to be done about it? Cooperation is talked as never before. Extension people think the answer lies in the production of better cows, lowering feed costs, and culling low producing cows. But there must be other answers in farm management. The feed costs are high in the east, but labor costs are also inordinately high because of the inefficient and insufficient use of labor.

(4) The costs of producing vegetables in Massachusetts, worked out by Mr. F. H. Branch, extension economist, are studies which should prove helpful to the vegetable gardener and extension agent alike. Part of this study is carried in the November, 1931 issue of The Field Station Journal, as published by the Waltham sub-station of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. The costs are high enough in many cases to cause reflection as to whether truck gardeners could make any profit, unless they sell on a most favorable market. Bunch carrots at \$350.59 per acre, beets at \$374.81, parsnips at \$340.19, lettuce at \$621.70, celery at \$669.43 are examples.

#### CENTRAL STATES

R. A. TURNER

##### Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Probably one of the more significant 4-H Club events in December was the Tenth National Boys' and Girls' Club Congress. This Congress is held annually in Chicago at the time of the International Livestock Exposition. A total of 1,108 club boys and girls from 42 States and Ontario, Canada, were registered. The program for the week included sight-seeing tours about the city, instructive trips to the International Livestock Exposition, International Harvester Company, and to the Union Stock Yards, together with judging and demonstration team contests, in various phases of 4-H Club work. Competitive exhibits were shown in the Boys' and Girls' Club building at the Livestock Exposition. The livestock exhibits consisted of 238 calves, 14 barrows, and 9 pens of lambs. The poultry and egg show was held in connection with the Chicago Coliseum Poultry Exposition.

One noteworthy feature of the week was the large number of scholarships presented as awards. Among the contributors of scholarships were the International Harvester Co., Thomas E. Wilson Co., Parker Pen Co., and the Kerr Glass Jar Co.

#### SOUTHERN STATES

OLA POWELL MALCOLM

##### Activities or conditions noted:

(1) The live-at-home program is being interpreted in terms of definite demonstrations in the home and on the farm, and the instructions given by the home agents are reduced to the "common denominator" in each demonstration, whether it deals with the home garden or orchard, poultry flock or home dairy, pantry demonstration or wardrobe demonstration, marketing home industries products or improving and beautifying the home. In spite of hard times the emphasis extension agents have placed on the conduct of these practical demonstrations have resulted in better living in better farm homes in surprisingly large numbers.

In Texas a list has been prepared showing the value and amounts of products from the farm and the grocery for a farm family's food supply for one year. This list is being used in encouraging home pantry demonstrations. Additional information and full details of this farm and ranch food supply for one year may be secured from Miss Mildred Horton, the State home demonstration agent for Texas.

##### Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) During the past year the home demonstration marketing project in South Carolina reached 45 of the 46 counties, and, according to records, assisted 17,481 people, a total of \$293,738.04 worth of surplus farm, garden, orchard, poultry, pork and other home produce being sold.

(2) South Carolina county home demonstration agents and extension nutritionists' reports for 1931 indicate the best year's work yet undertaken in foods, nutrition and health projects. Four units of work were offered for home demonstration club women in this project. 191 clubs in 35 counties undertook work in some one of these units; Not only do the club women attempt to put the knowledge obtained from these projects into practices in their own homes for the better health of their own families, but such community work is carried on for the better growth and development of other school children. Four counties with 73 local leaders in 37 communities served a hot dish to supplement the cold school lunch brought from home in 100 rooms to 2014 children for two or more cold winter months.

(3) Early in the spring in McCormick County, South Carolina, the agent began to hear of one case of pellagra after another. She set aside her regular program and after reading all she could find on pellagra and getting information from the local physicians, she began a month's work on pellagra, its cause, prevention and cure at the regular monthly club meetings.

The club members cooperated well in the work and the Club Health Chairman was asked to report all cases of pellagra in her community. Later a meeting was called by the home agent and Mrs. Dora Dee Walker of Winthrop College, for the purpose of organizing the county in an anti-pellagra movement. Influential men and women of the town and county were invited to it and the plan of organization was completed. Much good was accomplished through these channels. In July at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the County Council, it was decided that the Council raise one-half the amount of money needed to buy 100 pounds of Fleishman's Dried Yeast if the other half could be raised by some city organization. The County Board of Commissioners pledged the other half and the yeast was ordered. This yeast was to be given to needy pellagra patients of the county; but only on a written testimony by a physician stating that the patient had pellagra. The physicians of the county cooperated and yeast was kept in the office of the home and farm agents and given out from there, in two pound packages. In less than two weeks it was all gone and there are still calls for more. When possible, the agent tried to give instructions as to the proper diet for pellagra patients with each package of yeast.

C. L. CHAMBERS

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Several extension workers attending the Southern economic conference at Memphis were impressed with the importance of acquainting the farmer with the value his products contribute toward the family living. The farmer is prone to minimize the value of feed and food produced, since there is little or no sale for these products locally. There is a movement on foot in several States to assist the farmer in evaluating the "Live-at-Home" program and in budgeting his farm and home needs. Such procedure is obviously a step forward in stabilizing credit as well as enlarging the gross production and income of the family sized farm. Its tenant system coupled with the fact that a family can pick only about 20 acres of cotton is largely responsible for the South having nearly half of the farms in the United States. The small size of these farms explains to some extent why their average gross income is less than half of that of farmers in the remainder of the country.

(2) Several States are making a special effort to familiarize farmers with the advantage of machinery in economic production, especially the two-horse equipment over single mule equipment on the small-sized tenant farm. They are also calling the farmer's attention to the importance of farming the better lands. To put into practice the generally advocated "Live-at-Home" program and grow the feed for two mules, two cows, chickens, hogs, etc., on land that will produce 20 bushels of corn and 1/2 bale of cotton to the acre is around 43 acres, while land that will only produce 10 bushels of corn and 1/4 bale of cotton will require approximately 86 acres with two mules and the family labor. This farmer is forced to produce less cotton than he can pick or produce less food and feed crops than he can consume. Farmers on poor land can do one of three things. They can terrace and build up their cultivated land with Austrian peas, vetch or the other legumes, and through wise selection of fertilizer. They can abandon their farms because of the ever increasing competition of more fertile and better managed lands. They can remain satisfied with their present low standard of living.

(3) The year 1929 was a good cotton year. Fourteen million bales were produced and cotton brought around 17 cents. In the spring of 1930 farmers fertilized liberally as is usually the case following a good year. However, the drought, the greatest peace time hazard occurred during 1930. The fertilizer applied in the spring was not used by the crop. The usual fall and winter leaching rains did not occur. Coupled with this was an open winter which favored soil bacterial action. This no doubt added to and was augmented by the residual fertilizer applied in the spring of 1930. There is little question but what this residual fertilizer was responsible to some extent for the 16 million bale cotton crop in 1931. Many farmers who used little or no fertilizer in 1931 may be disappointed in 1932 since we are having our usual leaching rains this fall and winter over the cotton belt.

T. M. CAMPBELL

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) The possibility of reorganizing negro work in Louisiana with a view to reaching more Negro farmers, especially those on the big plantations is being considered.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Soil building, home building and 4-H Club peanut projects by Agent W. E. Street, Wilcox County, Ala.

(2) Soil building, dairying, pig projects, improved cotton seed production and winter cover crops by Agent R. T. Thurston, Macon County, Ala.

(3) Terracing land and dairying by Agent S. M. Boynton, Dallas County, Ala.

(4) Christmas turkey sales (two car loads shipped) by Agent J. T. Alexander, in cooperation with the white county agent, Montgomery County, Ala.

(5) Christmas turkey sales (two car loads shipped) by Agent E. B. Holloway, in cooperation with the white county agent, Bullock County, Ala.

(6) Some outstanding organization work is being done by Mrs. M. L. Ralston of Liberty County, Georgia, under the guidance of Miss Camilla Weems, negro district home agent, Georgia State College, Savannah, Ga.

(7) Under the guidance of Miss L. C. Hanna, State agent for negro women, Tuskegee Institute, some splendid marketing of farm and home products is being developed by Miss G. M. Williams of Lee County, Ala.

(8) Notable results are being obtained in home improvement by Miss A. I. Platts, Dallas County, Ala.; in curb marketing by Mrs. L. R. Daly, Macon County, Ala.; and in canning for home consumption by Miss L. V. Battle, Autauga County, Ala.

## VISUAL INSTRUCTION AND EDITORIAL WORK

REUBEN BRIGHAM

### Activities or conditions noted:

(1) "Recreation is being recognized as of particular importance at this time and efforts in this field are meeting with unusual response from farm people," says John Dexter, extension editor for Montana in a statement on the emergency home demonstration program for his State. He says further, "Interest in rural community gatherings is stronger now than for many years. Entertainment, amusement, human companionship are in demand, a natural manifestation of the desire of people to get away from, or to be lifted above, their difficulties and troubles."

### Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) J. Robert Hall, county agent for Linn County, Mo., has made exceptionally intelligent use of photographs in his teaching. He says: "No county program of extension work will go over in the largest way without local pictures, and they must be good. I have never been able to get as many persons as I desired to see the best demonstrations; but where forty have come to a meeting and seen a good demonstration, I have photographed its essentials and shown it to four thousand, explaining details with the film strip. Each year I have a film strip of about fifty frames made and show it to farm people in eighteen community meeting places and before business and civic organizations as a summary report and program building feature. The cost this year was \$13.50 under the U. S. D. A. contract and was the best work we have ever had."

(2) In order that those who had good potatoes on hand might get something out of them, several letters were written to firms handling potatoes, by J. A. Hemphill, county agent, Bradley County, Ark. The result of this was that one of the wholesale grocers wrote that he would trade groceries to merchants in this territory for potatoes. Mr. Hemphill immediately took this up with three of the leading merchants that catered to the farm trade and made arrangements for the merchants to trade groceries for potatoes, valuing the potatoes at fifty cents per bushel. To date there have been four carloads of potatoes handled in this way in addition to what the merchants have sold to their local trade. This has meant approximately \$1,000 to the farmers of the county.

L. A. SCHLUP

### Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) E. L. Ingalls, State club leader of Vermont, reports that considerable interest is being aroused in the National 4-H Music Achievement Test by the use of information media. The Vermont Extension Service keeps the music appreciation work before the club members by means of releases to the press, circular letters to club agents, and the frequent dissemination of information through leader groups, club meetings, and the like.

(2) 4-H club members, their parents, local leaders, and others in West Virginia are able to keep in touch with the best radio programs that the broadcasters have to offer through the service maintained by Walter C. Schnopp, the extension editor. This service consists of the release of a monthly one-page log listing all radio programs scheduled for broadcasting during the following month that will be of interest to 4-H club workers. From the multitude of programs continually going out over the ether, only those that pertain rather directly to 4-H development are selected and listed in the logs. Programs featuring the best music; lectures on history, literature, and art; sermons; talks on travel and adventure, on business, government, and current events; comments on news; suggestions and advice on farm, home, and community problems; health exercises; lessons in foreign languages; and similar subjects are included.

Each topic is classified according to whether it pertains to the development of the health, hand, heart, or head of the 4-H club member. Information is also included about the time and date that each program will be broadcast, the key station through which the broadcast is carried, and the nature of the program. On the back of the logs, attention is called to new and special features coming out over the radio. Mr. Schnopp states that there has been an excellent response to this service and that reports indicate the logs are being used and are found to be helpful to the persons who wish to tune in the programs of the most benefit.

C. H. HANSON

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) A four week's commercial fruit production course planned at the request of a large number of Michigan fruit growers, is the latest addition to the list of short courses at Michigan State College, where 22 different courses of training will be made available this year.

SUBJECT-MATTER SPECIALISTS

O. S. FISHER

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Plans are being developed to furnish good seed of coarse grains, oats, barley and flax to the drought areas of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. Plans are under way, also, to finance the purchase of this seed in large quantities and hold it until needed by the farmers of this section. Unless this part of the program is carried through the farmers will be tempted to seed excessive acreage of wheat rather than purchase poor seed or pay high prices for seed from local seed buyers.

C. D. LOWE

Activities or conditions noted:

- (1) Efficiency in feeding; especially content of fattening rations with reference to relative cost of different nutrients.
- (2) Winter care and feeding of breeding herds and flocks so as to insure large and thrifty "crops" of offspring.
- (3) Planning for leader training schools.
- (4) Conducting winter feeding schools.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) The beef cattle improvement program in Sevier County, Ark., under direction of County Agent Chas. U. Robinson, has made splendid progress. In a period of a few years by the use of good purebred sires and better methods of feeding and management, the cattle population of the county has been transformed from nondescript and mixed category to the place where a recent shipment of feeder cattle from the county to the St. Louis market attracted unusual attention on the market and sold at a premium price.

(2) Anderson-Clayton & Co., large cotton factors at Dallas, Tex., through a plan worked out with E. M. Regenbrecht, Texas swine specialist, are financing the distribution of purebred gilts (weanling pigs) to worthy farmers, as their contribution to a balanced farming program in the cotton territory.

(3) In 15 different Iowa counties, ten or more farmers have enrolled their herds in a program of swine production efficiency. The ten points forming the basis of the program are as follows:

- 1 - Selection of breeding stock on the basis of all available information.
- 2 - Ear marking of sows; pen breeding and the keeping of breeding records.
- 3 - Ear marking litters at birth and keeping a record of pigs farrowed and weaned in each litter.
- 4 - Comparison of litters at 12 weeks of age or later on basis of weight as well as numbers and type.
- 5 - Conducting a cooperative feeding test with a herd sample of 4 pigs from each farm to check on the relative ability of the different lots to turn feed into pork.
- 6 - Conducting a slaughter and "carcass-cut-out" test with the 4 pigs in feeding test to determine their value from the market standpoint.

- 7 - Keeping the better producing sows as indicated by the records and tests so long as they maintain their usefulness.
- 8 - Selection of gilts from the litters with best records as replacements for poor producing or "worn-out" sows.
- 9 - Feeding an adequate ration that furnishes required food nutrients at the lowest cost.
- 10 - Maintaining the health of the herd and keeping them free from disease and parasites by sanitary and other preventive measures. The slogan for this project is "Fewer Sows - Better Pigs - Lower Costs." Professor Rex Beresford, Iowa Extension Service, can supply further details.

(4) East Texas permanent pasture demonstration results. This project is being stimulated by the awarding of annual cash prizes by the East Texas Chamber of Commerce. The prizes were awarded for 1931 achievements at the State Fair. The awards are made on the basis of variety of grasses and legumes, density of turf, management, cost of improvement and location. First prize is \$250, second \$150, and third \$100. E. A. Miller, extension agronomist at College Station, Tex., a member of the committee in charge can supply further details.

(5) In Ohio the sheep specialist with the aid of local agencies is organizing sheep and wool growers associations in 30 of the leading sheep counties of the State. The purpose of this effort is to provide local machinery in the counties through which production and marketing programs may be coordinated. Marketing and farm management specialists will cooperate. Seasonal meetings and demonstrations will be a definite part of the plan, starting with sheep field days in the spring at which shearing and wool grading demonstrations will be given. Shearing contests also are planned. Later lamb grading demonstrations will be the line of work featured and so on throughout the year, the main idea being to measure the influence of various production practices on final returns and profits.

(6) The native lamb improvement project sponsored by several marketing and packing agencies of the middle West in 1931 again served to stimulate interest in the effort to increase the quality of market lambs in the farm States. The contest phase of the work was based on accomplishments by States and counties in the practices of drenching for the control of internal parasites, docking and castration and the use of registered rams. For the year, 1931, the States ranked in order as follows: Missouri, West Virginia, Michigan and Virginia. Counties in order of their ranking were - Ozark, Mo.; Lewis, W. Va.; Greenbrier, W. Va.; Boone, Mo.; Johnson, Mo.; Adams, Ill.; Monroe, Mo.; Morgan, Mo.; Benton, Mo.; and Chariton, Mo. Sheep specialists in the States and county agricultural agents in the counties can supply further information.

GERTRUDE L. WARREN

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Committees of women leaders to analyze homemaking club activities were organized at the National Club Congress, Chicago, Illinois.

(2) Each member of the Ohio extension staff has undertaken a research problem in extension work.

(3) At regular forum luncheons of the Ohio extension staff problems of mutual interest, such as sabbatical leave, retirement, etc., are discussed and recommendations are made to Director Ramsower to submit to the Dean and President. A report prepared by the Professional Improvement Committee of the extension staff made recommendations recently regarding leave of absence.

(4) A 4-H club committee is being organized in each community in Connecticut. This is a part of a general reorganization of extension work in each county in Connecticut, the plan for which was formulated by a committee of county extension workers.

R. C. JONES

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Interest in quality milk work is developing rapidly in Idaho and Oregon. This is more towards the improvement of quality in manufacturing milk and cream.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Clark and Lincoln Counties in Nevada are launching quality improvement work in market milk. This work was started in November with County Agent Wittwer. Mr. Wittwer writes, "Our dairymen are taking a wholesome interest in the development of the improved milk program."

F. D. BUTCHER

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Horses and mules are being treated for the removal of bots with carbon bisulfide capsules in many counties of Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. The removal of bots from these animals will be beneficial as it enables them to more efficiently use their food and be less disposed to attacks of colic. Horse owners estimate that a feed saving of \$5.00 per animal is realized by the treatments removing bots and other parasites. About 40 counties are involved in Iowa, nearly all counties in Illinois and about 16 in Missouri.

P. D. SANDERS

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) The live-at-home program urged in the cotton States has necessitated getting out more information on truck crop insects by entomologists of that section than in previous years. This was noted particularly in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) In Arkansas, Dwight Iseley, entomologist, is urging cotton growers to investigate cultural measures of fighting the boll weevil this winter to prevent an early infestation by this insect which would result in expensive dusting campaigns in summer. It is pointed out that cleaning up fence rows, woodlands, etc. by burning <sup>during</sup> winter would greatly reduce the overwintering population of weevils that would later fly to the cotton fields. Labor for winter clean ups is extremely plentiful and cheap. Where burning is impracticable due to fire hazards, cultivation is urged.

W. R. MATTOON

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) The planting of black walnut seedlings or nuts for timber and nut production on farms as a project for 4-H club members is expanding. In some States like North Carolina each club member plants 25 year-old seedlings grown in the State forest nursery, and over 400 members there have planted trees.

(2) Pine trees are being extensively cut and sold by farmers as pulpwood for paper mills in the South. During the lull in the lumber and crosstie market the paper mills are running on a good schedule. The average consumption of a mill is about 300 cords of wood daily. At \$4 a cord this amounts to a considerable cash income for the farmers of a county.

(3) Many families in towns, as well as on farms, business concerns, schools, and churches during the business depression are burning wood instead of coal for fuel. The wood is mostly cut and sold by farmers who are thereby securing a substantial addition to their cash income.

MIRIAM BIRDSEYE

Activities or conditions noted:

- (1) Meat canning.
- (2) Live-at-home work.
- (3) Plans for spring gardens.
- (4) Foods buying.
- (5) Cooperation with relief organizations.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) In New Jersey, Mr. Hulbert, State club leader, is attached to the office of the State Director of Relief on a full time basis with a mandate to get the facts on methods of organizing food handling, plans for cooperation between relief administration and food dealers, etc. Working closely with Miss Butters, State home demonstration agent, food orders for families of different sizes have been worked out and recommended to the local relief directors. Home demonstration agents in the absence of the nutrition specialist on leave, have agreed to prepare full menus, with recipes, for low-cost adequate diet for one week so that these may be checked at the college home economics department, and then used for newspaper releases over the State. In this way, much help is being given women outside the extension organization.

(2) In Ohio, Nellie Watts, home demonstration agent for Franklin County, is cooperating splendidly with public health and relief organizations.

EXTENSION STUDIES

M. C. WILSON

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) The annual report season is again with us, and reports from the field are coming in at the rate of several hundred a day. At the close of Saturday, January 9, a total of 2,197 annual reports had been received and checked over preparatory to filing.

(2) The annual extension conference in Vermont, the first held for three years, centered its programs and discussions almost entirely around the problem of wiser use of the means and agencies employed in extension teaching.

In addition to a formal presentation of the results of the data from the various extension studies conducted in the State, the members of the extension staff were assigned to sub-committees to give careful consideration to the individual means and agencies such as news stories, meetings, circular letters, and the like. In connection with their deliberations these sub-committees drew heavily upon published data relating to these methods, as derived from the numerous researches along these lines, conducted by this office in cooperation with the State Extension Services.

In addition to arousing an interest in studying the extension job, it would seem that the annual conference should have an important bearing upon the general attitude of the Vermont extension people toward extension teaching as a profession.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS EXTENSION

H. M. DIXON

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) At no time have there been so many requests from farmers and in turn from county and State extension workers for more information on economic questions than at the present time. The Department therefore, has had rarely, if ever, a more serious responsibility for assisting State and county extension workers to better qualify themselves and to keep currently informed so that they may extend sound economic leadership to farmers.

The national and regional outlook conferences are helpful in this regard. About 1/9 of all extension workers attended a regional conference this past year. In addition, practically all States are conducting special conferences with small groups of county agents to more fully familiarize them with available economic information and its uses.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Carefully organized and conducted training schools in economics are being held in the Southern States. Arkansas for example held four 2-day schools for county agents, January 4-12. Oklahoma held a special school for specialists and Virginia turned the Appalachian and Southern outlook reports over to commodity departments for preparation of their State outlook report with good results reported.